

IN THE CLAIMS

Please replace any previous listing of the claims with the following replacement listing of the claims:

Replacement Listing of the Claims

1. (Previously presented) A non-return device for use between a waste outlet and a waste pipe in a plumbing system; the said device comprising:

a tubular housing, for connection between the waste outlet and the waste pipe;

flexible impervious wall members of disposed within the said housing for communication with the said waste outlet at a first, upstream, end of the housing, the said flexible, impervious wall members being of complementary shapes and disposed face-to-face in surface contact so that there is no through passage between them in their normal state and resiliently urged into the said normal state; and

means holding the said wall members spaced apart from one another at the said first end thereof to define an inlet for fluid, thereby enabling it to reach the interface of the said members, whereby in-flowing fluid can force the said members apart to permit flow between them from the waste outlet and to the other end of the device, whereas fluid flow in the opposite direction is prevented by the close surface contact between the members;

wherein the housing is provided with a tubular outlet portion for connection to the waste pipe, the said outlet portion having a different diameter from the housing, the longitudinal axis of the housing and the longitudinal axis of the tubular outlet portion being mutually radially offset, so that a wall portion of the body portion is radially congruous with a wall portion of the outlet portion, so as to define a generally uninterrupted flow surface for discharging fluid.

2. (Previously presented) A non-return device according to Claim 1, wherein the outlet portion has a smaller diameter than the housing.

3. (Previously presented) A non-return device according to Claim 1, wherein the housing and the outlet portion are joined by an intermediate portion, which is tapered.

4. (Previously presented) A non-return device according to Claim 1, wherein the housing has a circular cross-section having a radius r_1 and the outlet portion has a circular cross-section having a radius r_2 , the two radii being radially offset by a distance R ; wherein

$$R = r_1 - r_2.$$

5. (Previously presented) A non-return device for use between a waste outlet and a waste pipe in a plumbing system; the said device comprising:

a tubular housing, for connection between the waste outlet and the waste pipe;

flexible, impervious wall members disposed within the said housing for communication with the said waste outlet at a first, upstream, end of the housing, the said flexible, impervious wall members being of complementary shapes disposed face-to-face in surface contact, so that there is no through passage between them in a normal state and resiliently urged into the said normal state;

support means comprising an annular sleeve having a first part located coaxially within said housing at an axial inlet end thereof, and a second part projecting axially from said housing and comprising a radial flange, the said first part of said annular sleeve being arranged to hold said wall members spaced apart from one another at the said first end thereof to define an inlet for fluid, thereby enabling it to reach the interface of said members, whereby in-flowing fluid can force said members apart to permit flow between them from the waste outlet and to the other end of the device, whereas flow in the opposite direction is prevented by the close surface contact between the members; and

a nut for mounting the device upon the waste outlet, said nut comprising an annular recess, which recess surrounds the said second part of the annular sleeve and receives the said flange therein in such a manner as to permit axial movement thereof within the said recess;

wherein the arrangement is such that mounting of the nut upon the waste outlet causes axial movement of the said flange within the said annular recess, so as to compress a portion of the wall members situated in a region adjacent the inlet against the said support means and also compress the said portion of the wall members against the said housing and thereby effect a seal between the said support means and the said housing.

6-7. (Cancelled)

8. (Previously presented) A non-return device according to Claim 5, wherein the annular sleeve has an end face which is adapted to abut the end of a component to which the device is to be attached, thereby experiencing an axial displacement relative to the body portion, as the body portion is axially drawn towards the component during attachment thereto.

9. (Previously presented) A non-return device according to Claim 8, wherein the end face comprises a compression seal, so as to effect a seal between the component and the said inlet upon mounting.

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Currently amended) A non-return device for use between a waste outlet and a waste pipe in a plumbing system;

the said device comprising a tubular housing, for connection between the waste outlet and the waste pipe;

flexible, impervious wall members disposed within the said housing for communication with the said waste outlet at a first, upstream, end of the housing,

the said flexible, impervious wall members being of complementary shapes and disposed face-to-face in surface contact so that there is no through passage between them in their normal state and resiliently urged into the normal state; and

~~means holding~~ a support that holds the said wall members spaced apart from one another at the said first end thereof to define an inlet for fluid thereby enabling it to reach the interface of said members, whereby in-flowing fluid will force said members apart to permit flow between them from the waste outlet and to the other end of the device, whereas flow in the opposite direction is prevented by the close surface contact between the members; wherein the thickness of the wall members is in the range of 0.3% to 3% of their width, the said width being measured in a direction transverse to the forward fluid flow direction.

12. (Previously presented) A non-return device according to Claim 11 wherein the thickness of the wall members is in the range of 0.5% to 2.5% of their width.

13. (Previously presented) A non-return device according to Claim 12, wherein the thickness of the wall members is in the range of 1% to 2% of their width.

14. (New) A non-return device according to Claim 11 wherein a radius of said tubular housing is smaller at a downstream end thereof than at said upstream end.